Cambridge North

Locality News

Cambridgeshire County Council

Welcome to the Summer term edition of the Cambridge North Locality Newsletter

Message from Paul Connelly

As the public sector moves into a period of increasingly challenging budgets, there is a new imperative to find new ways to do things. The County Council has set a reducing 5-year budget, which will see resources to Connexions and Youth Work reduced by a third. It is therefore necessary to review and re-structure Connexions and Youth Work functions as part of an integrated youth support service (IYSS) and consider what the core business of this service should be. Much has been achieved in the development of Locality Teams, but there is considerable scope to integrate further. There is potentially some duplication of roles and functions across services and between agencies, which presents further opportunities to improve how we deliver support services to young people.

Although this is a difficult and challenging time, staff have contributed at early consultation events where there has been constructive debate which the LA has taken on board in developing further the informal consultation paper (now out).

Over the last few weeks staff have been busy working on their appraisals, setting personal objectives for the forthcoming year that will help the team achieve the outcomes in our locality plan. If you would like to see a copy of our plan, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address below and we can either email or post you a hard copy.

The wider economic climate makes these particularly challenging times, but the articles within this newsletter demonstrate that a lot of good and imaginative work will continue to happen by dedicated public sector staff working on behalf of their local community.

I do hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Paul Connelly
Locality Manager
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The Cambridge North Locality Team members are:

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The Partners we work closely with are:

GPs and Health Centres	Support for Learning
Midwifes	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Heath Visitors	Cambridge City Council
School Nurses	Voluntary Sector Organisations
Extended Schools	Early Years Settings
CAMH	Youth Offending Service
Cambridgeshire Police	Parish Councils
Social Care	Housing Associations

We also work closely with the head and deputy teachers of the following schools:

Primary	Secondary	Further education
• Arbury Primary School • Kings Hedges Primary School • Castle School • Colleges Nursery • Dry Drayton Primary School • Girton Glebe • Histon and Impington Infants School • Histon and Impington Junior School • Histon Early Years Centre • The Grove • Mayfield Primary School • Milton Primary School • Milton Road School • Oakington Primary School • Orchard Park Primary School • Shirley Primary School • St Lawrence's Primary School • St Lukes Primary School	• Impington Village College • Manor Community College • Chesterton Community College • Ascham Road Pupil Referral Unit	• Cambridge Regional College • Long Road Sixth Form College • Hills Road Sixth Form College • Anglia Ruskin University • Cambridge University

Who we are and what we do

A Week in the in the Life of a Universal Personal Adviser (UPA)

The UPA role is to provide information, advice and guidance to 13 – 19 year olds to help them make informed choices and have smooth transitions at key stages in their lives. The focus is largely on careers and personal development with the aim of getting young people into education, employment and training. UPAs refer those young people who require more in-depth, ongoing help to address major barriers to their progression (e.g. homelessness, substance misuse, etc) to an Intensive Personal Adviser.

My own caseload is based in Impington Village College where I work mainly with Year 11s but also with some Year 9, 10 and sixth form students. I also work in Long Road Sixth Form (where I work jointly with another UPA) and the College of West Anglia. There is a mixture of self-referral by the students, school/college staff referrals, occasional referrals from within the Locality team and those that I identify myself as likely to benefit from a Connexions interview.

For the majority of my week I offer guidance interviews to young people and I also deliver some group work session. This generates lots of data for me to input on clients records on our Aspire data base! This enables us to track the support we are giving to young people. Additionally I attend parents/open evenings, occasionally deliver a talk at assemblies as well as provide guidance in both IVC and Long Road and in the Connexions public office (in Lion Yard library) at GCSE and A Level results day. Several times a month I offer guidance appointments in the library.

We work with Connexions Central Services e.g. Information and Education Services to provide support to schools and colleges to improve services for students e.g. by contributing to the development of their Careers Education programmes.

Whilst working with clients we use our expertise gained from visiting local employers and training providers, further and higher education visits as well as keeping up-to-date via formal professional development training and liaison with Connexions Central Services.

Particularly in the Autumn, when the County's clients' destinations survey takes place, UPAs also have a major role in following up students at their transitions points including trying to track down the elusive ones to find out if they need more help from us.

In the past few months I have been working closely with two of our Locality's youth workers (Andrea and Sophie) to deliver the U-Project to Year 11 students in IVC who are in danger of not making a smooth transition to FE or employment/training.

By Val Brown – Connexions Universal Personal Adviser

What's been happening in the locality?

Get Connected - Recruitment and Training Fair

On 1 July the Connexions Centre in Cambridge Central Library hosted a recruitment and training fair aimed at 16 - 19 year olds who are looking for work. Exhibitors included: John Lewis, Princes Trust, Cambridge Regional College work based learning, YMCA training, Cambridgeshire County Council and Consign Construction Skills. Each of the employers were asked to bring along details of any vacancies and be prepared to speak to young people about what it's like to work in their sector. Training providers brought along information about their courses and Connexions Advisers were on hand to provide advice and guidance. Information about the event was been sent to schools and leaflets were sent to young people direct by Connexions Information Advisers and Client Researchers.

The event was held in the 3rd Floor Conference Room in the Library, opposite the café, and ran from 1pm - 4pm. If you would like further information about this or any similar future event please contact Julie Nicholson, Connexions Information Adviser on 01223 728500 or email julie.nicholson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Careers Event a major success

A recent careers event at Long Road Sixth Form College was able to provide "something for everyone". The event was aimed at all students in the college, whether taking A levels, GCSE retakes or a vocational course. It was relevant to students planning to go to university and those planning a gap year before university as well as those hoping to find a job or apprenticeship at 17 onwards.

The Careers Department at the college had put in a lot of hard work inviting a wide range of exhibitors including national employers such as Microsoft, Schlumberger, Deloitte Touche and Northern Rock as well as local companies such as Marshalls Aerospace, Napp Pharmaceuticals, Addenbrookes and the Cambridge Cookery School. Some professional institutions and organisations were represented, such as the Royal Society for Chemistry, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and the National Apprenticeship Service. There were also representatives from other local colleges, namely Cambridge Regional College and the College of West Anglia, as well as gap year specialists.

Susan Earnshaw, one of the Connexions Personal Advisers, who, alongside her colleague, Val Brown, works regularly at Long Road Sixth Form College, was on hand to talk to students and offer help with their future plans. She was also able to network with many of the exhibitors in order to inform the guidance that she gives. Students that she spoke to said they valued the opportunity to have access to so much information, advice and guidance all in one place.

The main aim of the event was not to be a recruitment fair. Students were encouraged to move around and to talk informally with the exhibitors and the event gave them an excellent opportunity to find out about their future options.

By Susan Earnshaw – Connexions Personal Adviser

A Royal Connexion

Cambridge North locality staff were recently involved in the grand opening of Cambridge Central Library by the Princess Royal. Julie Nicholson and Jamie Jackson are both Connexions Advisers and were on hand to show the Princess the Connexions drop-in area and to tell her a bit about their work with 16-19 year olds. Unfortunately the Princess was running late and so didn't get the chance to find out about this well-used facility and the variety of support on offer. Maybe next time! The Connexions drop –in runs everyday from 1.30 - 4.30pm and Advisers are available to support with a number of issues including job seeking, volunteering, benefits, housing and sexual health.

Update from our Parent Support Advisers

It has been a busy few months for the Parent Support Advisers in the Cambridge North Locality team. Everyone is now trained to deliver a new parenting course; Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities and Sue Hunt has recently passed the accreditation to facilitate this. Patricia Kortlever and Sue Derry are now running taster sessions as a way of engaging parents. Its focus is more on the child and the part he or she can play in their community as well as looking at positive parenting and child development.

Sue Derry has been training to become a" Mental Health Champion" helping her colleagues to understand the referral processes better, give more information on the more common disorders and help with what is available to support families with mental health issues

Patricia Kortlever is about to start a pilot project working with the Chesterton Children's Centre helping support children and their families as they move from Early Years into their first year at school. The feeder schools involved are Mayfield, Arbury and St Lukes primaries.

Ana Cooper is now focusing on working with teenagers and her schools are Manor and Chesterton Community Colleges. She is keen to work alongside school staff to get the Raising Teens course going in September.

'Family Seal' has been piloted at Histon Juniors and Milton Primary. Sue Hunt has been working along side school staff to facilitate this. The aim is to show parents what their children have been doing and to involve them in working with their children on the themes being taught. The feedback from parents has been very positive and they have really enjoyed the "hands on" approach.

A new 'Challenging Domestic Violence' course for parents and their primary aged children has also been piloted in this locality. This was run by two Parent Support Advisers, staff from the Domestic Violence Advocacy team, a worker from Women's Aid and a worker from Homerton Nursery . The aim of the course was for Mothers to be able to see the domestic violence their children had experienced through their eyes and therefore help the healing process for the youngsters. It is in the process of being evaluated but already we are being asked to run more similar groups.

Arts Award work

Young people from our locality performed their achievements on stage at The Junction on 21 June.

The arts and media group from Impington Village College chose to put on a production displaying positive and negative images of young people. Through dance, grafitti boards, film work and voice recordings they put together a fantastic piece of work performed to an audience made up of teachers, youth workers, friends and family. Juggling exam preparations, work experience, coursework and leading busy teenage lives, this group has really worked hard, as a team, to produce a great piece of work. For this group, showcasing their work at The Junction has completed their Bronze Arts Award Challenge with many of them already looking forward to moving on to Silver next term!

Another part of the performance was given by two year 10 girls who have created their own ballad; one played the guitar whilst the other did the vocals. It was superbly performed and amazing to think they had written it all themselves!

Adding a swirl to the stage was the Circus Skills Arts Award Group made up of three year 7/8 lads. They were very entertaining, showing off their skills at hat tricks, juggling, diablo and general clowning around!

Other acts on the night included two Year 8 girls from Chesterton performing a dance they had been working on with Sin Cru - this was a great achievement for them. Also, a group of young people from Arbury had been learning DJ and MC skills. They were the last act of the evening and what a finale - the crowd went wild!!

The Arts Award Programme is an excellent programme aimed at giving young people the opportunity to get involved with the arts at the same time as gaining a qualification. We have worked alongside some great artists during this project including Libby Morley, Tom Puckett and Lizzie Franklin and we have used the recording studio at The Meadows.

Andrea Cramp (Locality Youth Worker) says 'It has been a challenge to run the programme - with the vast array of arts to choose from and each young person having a different aim to reach, but extremely satisfying too!' Well done Andrea, all of your hard work has paid off. Working closely with Janice Oliver (Outreach worker at the Junction) and our team, we have facilitated an event and celebration of the young people's achievements that they'll never forget!

HI Squad - by Andrea Cramp

After a successful meeting with the Editors of the Histon and Impington Crier (a local monthly newspaper distributed in Histon and Impington), a page of the paper was secured specifically for

the Young People! Nesha Saini, Meghan Clark, Ellie Wakley-Trick and Beth Godwin have named themselves the HI Squad and are now the sole editors of this page on a monthly basis. Reporting on subjects that will appeal to their age group they have written about school trips, fashion, their hobbies and are even showcasing the Arts Award work that we have been doing with them! If you would like to be interviewed by them, please do get in touch!

Meadows Summer Scheme

This summer we will again be running an open access summer scheme at the Newton Q (Meadows Community Centre) aimed at young people between the ages of 11 and 17 years. There will be a range of activities on offer including sports, grafitti, music technology, dance and cooking, and issue based health sessions

Dates for Summer Scheme are:
Tuesday 27 July, Wednesday 28 July, Thursday 29 July
Tuesday 3 Aug, Wednesday 4 Aug, Thursday 5 Aug
Tuesday 10 Aug, Wednesday 11 Aug, Thursday 12 Aug
All sessions 2 - 5 pm

All of the youth work team will be involved this year and supporting their young people to attend. If you have any enquiries please contact Clare Brassett on clare.brassett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or 07825521792

What's been happening in the Children's Centres?

North Cambridge Children's Centre

Focusing on Fathers

North Cambridge Children's Centre is in the process of developing groups and activities, in an attempt to attract fathers to the centre.

Funded by Family Learning we have had a good response to our First Aid for Fathers course. This six hour accredited course was planned for a twilight session from 6.30 to 9.30 pm over a two week period with the course fully booked and a waiting list. (We have had only one cancellation due to Brazil playing in the World Cup at the first session!) Once things have been evaluated we hope to get suggestions and ideas for more twilight and weekend sessions.

Our second activity is 'Saturdads' which runs on the last Saturday of the month and is a chance for fathers to attend an activity play session on Saturday morning from 10am-12 noon. Bearing in mind both so far have been on bank holiday weekends, we had three registered fathers at the first session and at the second session we had those three dads attend with their children and an additional new three dads. Our focus is to promote the children's centre and the importance of play in a safe and secure environment. As the group develops we hope that dad's have some input into the planning of groups and activities.

One of the fathers who attends 'Saturdads' and has booked onto the First Aid for fathers has suggested an opportunity for both parents to attend a baby signing workshop. The baby signing course was held here at the Centre by trained Centre staff. As it was on during a morning, he had heard about it from his partner and suggested that there were more Dads interested in Baby Signing.

By Jo Maxwell – Children's Centre Manager

Sure Start Children's Centres Cambridgeshire

Histon Early Years Centre

Traveller Forum

Histon hosted a Traveller Forum with many agencies attending. An NHS government coordinator gave a short presentation on the Traveller initiatives being carried out in London, Manchester and Birmingham; a great deal of networking took place with sharing of good practice from many areas.

The Traveller Forum is looking at ways that Travellers, professionals and the settled Community can learn about their different cultures with the emphasis on children's learning and achievements. The next Forum date has been set for November 2010.

We launched our mobile toy library at the end of May; our aim is to reach the more rural areas, enabling all our families to access the services we have on offer. All our toys have been chosen with learning in mind and providing compact resources that can be used in the smallest of spaces, for ease of storage and transport from home to van, van to home.

Partnership work

We are building on our partnership work, with our health teams going from strength to strength, running baby clinics and developmental checks. We have midwife appointments running successfully, and drop in speech and language.

A baby sitting course is being planned in the autumn term with Connexions

Being Healthy

Our bumps to babies, Ready steady play and Dads play have spent time outdoors and taking short walks around the village. The families enjoy being out and about and a baby sensory trail proved to be a great success

We have had a very busy term with planting and growing across the centre and with families on Travellers sites, The Centre held a little gardeners day tidying up the garden and planting vegetables in April. The children are now looking at harvesting their crops.

In Child Safety Week, the Centre is raising awareness of safety in the sun and road safety.

Community activities

- There was a boat trip on the 1 July for families, which was fully booked.
- We had a display at the local flower festival on the theme of seasons on the 1 and 2 July.
- Families created a float for the Feast parade on 4 July.

Holiday Play Scheme

We are now taking bookings for the Holiday Play Scheme sessions. These will run from 23 July to mid August.

Partnership working

Finding a way forward
Cambridge North locality team have recently been involved in a pilot scheme with the Cambridge & District Community Mediation Service (CDCMS) and Social Care. Mediation is a way of helping people talk to each other and find solutions to their differences. The pilot scheme was aimed at young people aged 13-14 who are starting to show signs of difficult and challenging behaviour, who are maybe falling out with their parents and where communication has become difficult. The service gives people the chance to be heard, to help them explore possible solutions and to help them to reach an agreement to make things better. The pilot has involved work with three families from the locality and its impact will start to be evaluated in the summer.

CDCMS is a free service working with people across Cambridgeshire. In addition to family mediation work, they cover a wide range of disputes including neighbour disputes over fences, hedges, paths, noise, parking, pets and children's behaviour plus workplace disputes between colleagues in public or voluntary sector organizations. CDCMS can be contacted on 01223 302514 from 10.00-2.00 on weekdays.

What's on in our Children's Centres over the Summer?

July and August 2010

MONDAY		
Childminder's Group	10am-12pm 26 July, 2, 9 August	Colleges Nursery and Family Centre
New Parents and Parents To Be (Under 1's only)	12-1.30pm 26 July, 2, 9 August	Colleges Nursery and Family Centre
Well Child Clinic	1.30-3.00pm 26 July, 2, 9 August Under 5's	Colleges Nursery and Family Centre
Stay and Play	1-3pm 26 July, 2, 9 August Under 8's	Arbury Community Centre
Shirley Toddler Group	9.30-11.30am Term-time	Brown's Field Community Centre
Little Crawlers	10-12 noon	Chesterton Children's Centre
TUESDAY		
Little Apples Family Drop in	9.30-11.30am 27 July, 3, 10 August	Orchard Park Community Centre - Under 8's
Chill and Chat Young Parents Group	1-2.30pm 27 July, 3, 10 August, Under 8's Parents 25 years or under	Colleges Nursery and Family Centre
Little Music Makers	9.30-11.15am	Brown's Field Community Centre

Toddler Clinic	10-12noon 1st and 3rd Tuesday every month	Brown's Field Community Centre
Space 2 Play	1-5pm	Chesterton Children's Centre
Wednesday		
Wednesdays Together	10am-12pm (1-3years) 1-3pm (pre-walkers) Every Wednesday Please note! On the 18 and 25 August, the session will take place at Arbury Community Centre	Colleges Nursery and Family Centre
Baby Rhyme Time	10-11am Under 5's Every Wednesday	Arbury Court Library
Family Picnic	Meet the team at 11.30am Bring you own picnic Under 8's 28 July	Topper Street Park, Orchard Park
Art Crafts	1-3pm Under 8's 4 August and 11 August	Arbury Community Centre
Toddler Plus	9.30-11.30am Term-time	Arbury Road Baptist Church
Chesterton Parent Forum	Meeting & Crèche 10.30-12noon 21 Apr, 12 May, 16 Jun 2010	Chesterton Methodist Church
Breastfeeding Information and Support	11-1pm	Chesterton Children's Centre
Baby Clinic	1-2.45pm	Brown's Field Community Centre
Tiny Feet	Babies under 1 and their parents/carers 1.15-2.45pm	Chesterton Children's Centre
THURSDAY		
Story Club	10.30-11.15am Under 5's Every Thursday	Arbury Court Library
Messy Play	10-11.30am Under 8's 22 July, 29 July, 12 August	Colleges Nursery and Family Centre
Trip to Milton Maize Maze	Tickets available from Children's Centre office. Refundable booking fee per family - £5 Entrance to the maze - £4.50 for children over three. 5 August	Coach departs from Arbury Community at 10.00am prompt.
Thursday Together	10-2pm	Brown's Field Community Centre

Prampushers	10-11.30am Term-time	St George's Church
Church Mice	10-12noon	St Andrew's Hall

FRIDAY		
Law For All (drop in)	10am-12pm 30 July, 13 August	Colleges Nursery and Family Centre
Let's Get Physical	10-11.30am Under 5's 23 July, 6 August, 13 August	Arbury Community Centre
Sleep Clinic (drop in)	10-11.30am 23 July, 6 August	Colleges Nursery and Family Centre
Coffee Morning	Drop in for a drink, chat & play 10-11.30am	Chesterton Children's Centre
SATURDAY		
Saturdads	For male parents/carers with children under 5 years. 10am-12pm 31 July	Colleges Nursery and Family Centre

PLEASE NOTE BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL ACTIVITIES WITH A CRECHE

What's on in our Youth Clubs over the Summer?

Please contact Paula Mayes on 01223 712468 for the most recent information regarding Youth Activities over the summer holidays.

If you would like to contribute to further editions of the newsletter, please contact Soussan Shahriari soussan.shahriari@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or 01223 712468 or

If you would like to view this newsletter in an alternative format – large print, Braille or another language please contact Dawn Rogers on dawn.rogers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or 01223 699220.